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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **BIOCON LIMITED** [IN/IN]; 20th Km, Hosur Road, Electronics City P.O., Bangalore, Karnataka 560100 (IN).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **HAZRA, Partha** [IN/IN]; c/o Biocon Limited, 20th Km Hosur Road, Electronics City P.O., Bangalore, Karnataka 560100 (IN). **MANJUNATH, H., S.** [IN/IN]; c/o Biocon Limited, 20th Km Hosur Road, Electronics City P.O., Bangalore, Karnataka 560100 (IN). **KHEDKAR, Anand** [IN/IN]; c/o Biocon Limited, 20th Km Hosur Road, Electronics City P.O., Bangalore, Karnataka 560100 (IN). **IYER, Harish** [IN/IN]; c/o Biocon Limited, 20th Km Hosur Road, Electronics City P.O., Bangalore, Karnataka 560100 (IN). **DAVE, Nitesh** [IN/IN]; c/o Biocon Limited, 20th Km Hosur Road, Electronics City P.O., Bangalore, Karnataka 560100 (IN). **KRISHNAN, Gautam** [IN/IN]; c/o Biocon Limited, 20th Km Hosur Road, Electronics City P.O., Bangalore, Karnataka 560100 (IN). **SURYANARAYAN, Shrikumar** [IN/IN]; c/o Biocon Limited, 20th Km Hosur Road, Electronics City P.O., Bangalore, Karnataka 560100 (IN).

(74) Agents: **ANAND, Pravin** et al.; Anand And Anand Advocates, B-41 Nizamuddin East, New Delhi 110013 (IN).

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(54) Title: PREPARATION OF INSULIN CONJUGATES

(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses a process for making an insulin-oligomer conjugate as a one-pot reaction by conjugation of insulin-ester with an activated oligomer wherein simultaneous deblocking and conjugation is carried out.

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5 TITLE OF THE INVENTION**PREPARATION OF INSULIN CONJUGATES****FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a process for making an insulin-oligomer conjugate as a one-pot reaction by conjugation of insulin-ester
10 with an activated oligomer wherein simultaneous deblocking and conjugation is carried out.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The β -cells of the pancreatic islets secrete a single chain precursor of insulin, known as pro-insulin which upon proteolysis results in the
15 biologically active polypeptide insulin. The insulin molecule is a highly conserved across species and generally consists of two chains of amino acids linked by disulfide bonds. The natural human insulin molecule (mw 5,807 Daltons), has A-chain of 21 amino acid residues with glycine at the amino terminus; and a B-chain of 30 amino acid residues with
20 phenylalanine at the amino terminus. Insulin may exist as a monomer or may aggregate into a dimer or a hexamer formed from three of the dimers. The monomer has the ability to bind to receptors and is the biologically active form.

Insulin polypeptide is the primary hormone responsible for
25 controlling the transport, utilization and storage of glucose in the body. A defect in the carbohydrate metabolism as a result of insufficient production of insulin or reduced sensitivity of the receptor to insulin leads to the biological disorder diabetes. Diabetes impairs the normal ability to use glucose as a result increases blood sugar levels
30 (hyperglycemia). As glucose accumulates in the blood, excess levels of sugar are excreted in the urine (glycosuria). Other symptoms of diabetes include increased urinary volume and frequency, thirst, itching, hunger, weight loss, and weakness. Diabetes when left untreated leads to

5 ketosis, followed by acidosis with nausea and vomiting. As the toxic products continue to build up, the patient goes into a diabetic coma, which leads to the patient's death. There are two types of diabetes. Type I is insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, or IDDM. IDDM was formerly referred to as "juvenile onset diabetes." In IDDM, insulin is not
10 secreted by the pancreas and must be provided from an external source. Type II or adult-onset diabetes can ordinarily be controlled by diet, although in some advanced cases insulin is required.

Banting *et al.* discloses the use of insulin for treatment for diabetes using active extract from the pancreas in diabetic dogs "Pancreatic
15 Extracts in the Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus" (Can. Med. Assoc. J., 12:141-146 (1922)). In that same year, treatment of a diabetic patient with pancreatic extracts resulted in a dramatic, life-saving clinical improvement.

Traditionally bovine and porcine insulin were used almost
20 exclusively to treat diabetes in humans. With the development of recombinant technology commercial scale manufacture of human insulin was made possible by fermentation. Furthermore, genetically engineered insulin analogs having biological activity comparable to that of natural human insulin were developed to combat the disease.

25 However, treatment of diabetes typically requires regular injections of insulin. Due to the inconvenience of insulin injections, various approaches have been attempted to formulate insulin for administration by non-injectable routes. A list of such disclosures include: US 4,338,306 (Kitao *et al.*) discloses a pharmaceutical
30 compositions of insulin and fatty acids having 8 to 14 carbon atoms and nontoxic salts thereof for rectal administration of insulin; US 4,579,730 (Kidron *et al.*) discloses an enterocoated insulin compositions with a bile acid or alkali metal salt thereof for the oral administration of insulin; US

- 5 5,283,236 (Chiou *et al.*) discloses an insulin composition with a permeation-enhancing agent to aid systemic absorption of higher molecular weight polypeptides, as well as peptidase inhibitors for systemic delivery of insulin through the eyes wherein the drug passes into the nasolacrimal duct and becomes absorbed into circulation; US
- 10 5,658,878 (Backstrom *et al.*) discloses an insulin and sodium salt of a saturated fatty acid of carbon chain length 10 (i.e., sodium caprate), 12 (sodium laurate), or 14 (sodium myristate) which enhances the absorption of insulin in the lower respiratory tract; US 5,853,748 (New *et al.*) discloses an enteric-coated composition of insulin, a bile salt or
- 15 bile acid, and carbonate or bicarbonate ions, used to adjust the pH of the gut to a pH of from 7.5 to 9 for the oral administration of insulin. US 6,200,602 (Watts *et al.*) discloses a drug delivery composition of insulin for colonic delivery of insulin with an absorption promoter which includes a mixture of fatty acids having 6 to 16 carbon atoms and its salts or a
- 20 mixture of mono/diglycerides of medium chain fatty acids along with a dispersing agent, in a coating to prevent the release of the insulin and absorption promoter until the tablet, capsule or pellet reaches the proximal colon.

- Attempts have been made to deliver insulin by oral administration.
- 25 The problems associated with oral administration of insulin to achieve euglycemia in diabetic patients are well documented in pharmaceutical and medical literature. Digestive enzymes in the GI tract rapidly degrade insulin, resulting in biologically inactive breakdown products. In the stomach, for example, orally administered insulin undergoes enzymatic
- 30 proteolysis and acidic degradation. Survival in the intestine is hindered by excessive proteolysis. In the lumen, insulin is barraged by a variety of enzymes including gastric and pancreatic enzymes, exo- and endopeptidases, and brush border peptidases. Even if insulin survives

5 this enzymatic attack, the biological barriers that must be traversed before insulin can reach its receptors in vivo may limit oral administration of insulin. For example, insulin may possess low membrane permeability, limiting its ability to pass from the lumen into the bloodstream.

10 Pharmaceutically active polypeptides such as insulin have been conjugated with polydispersed mixtures of polyethylene glycol or polydispersed mixtures of polyethylene glycol containing polymers to provide polydispersed mixtures of drug-oligomer conjugates; US 4,179,337 (Davis *et al*) discloses conjugating polypeptides such as
15 insulin with various polyethylene glycols such as MPEG-1900 and MPEG-5000 supplied by Union Carbide. US 5,567,422 (Greenwald) discloses the conjugation of biologically active nucleophiles with polyethylene glycols such as m-PEG-OH (Union Carbide), which has a number average molecular weight of 5,000 Daltons.

20 Conjugation of polypeptides such as insulin with polyethylene glycol modified glycolipid polymers and polyethylene glycol modified fatty acid polymers are disclosed in US 5,359,030 (Ekwuribe *et al.*).

US 6,011,008 (Domb *et al.*) discloses a method for producing a water-soluble polysaccharide conjugate of an oxidation-sensitive
25 substance comprising activating the polysaccharide to a dialdehyde by periodate oxidation; (b) purifying the dialdehyde from interfering anions and by-products; and (c) coupling the substance to the purified dialdehyde by Schiff base formation to form the conjugate. Optionally, the conjugate of step (c) is reduced to an amine conjugate by a
30 reducing substance. Insulin was conjugated to oxidized AG (arabinogalactan) via an amine or imine bond by reacting a solution of pure oxidized AG (arabinogalactan) in borate buffer solution at pH 8.9 with insulin at 4°C overnight. The clear solution was dialyzed through a

5 cellulose dialysis and the solution was lyophilized to yield 115 mg of a white solid.

US 6,022,524 (Maisano *et al.*) Gd-DTPA was conjugated with porcine insulin in a solution of DTPA and dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) is prepared by heating and stirring, then it is cooled at room temperature and added with a solution of 11.73 g NHS (0.102 mol) in 300 ml DMSO, then, drop by drop, with a solution of 19.6 g of N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (0.097 mol) in 400 ml DMSO. The mixture is stirred for 16 hours, then filtered and the filtrate is concentrated by evaporation at 50.degree. C. and 5 Pa to a thick oil of an about 160 ml volume.

US 6,309,633 (Ekwuribe *et al.*) disclose use of solid insulin for conjugation of insulin with laurate PEG₅ in presence of Triethylamine and DMSO at room temperature. The reaction was monitored via HPLC every 30 mins. The conjugate was purified using a preparative HPLC.

20 US 6,828,297 (Ekwuribe *et al.*) discloses methods for making PEG7-Hexyl-Insulin by using zinc or zinc free human insulin for conjugation with activated oligomer and purification of B29 modified PEG7-Hexyl-Insulin. insulin in dimethylsulfoxide and triethyl amine was reacted with activated oligomer at 22 +/- 4°C. The crude reaction mixture is dialyzed or diltered to remove organic solvents and small molecular weight impurities, exchanged against ammonium acetate buffer and lyophilized; which is further subjected to RP-HPLC equilibrated with 0.5% triethylamine / 0.5% phosphoric acid buffer (TEAP A). The column was eluted with a gradient flow using TEAP A and TEAP B (80% acetonitrile and 20% TEAP A) solvent system. Fractions containing the conjugate were pooled and the elution buffer and solvent were removed by dialysis or diafiltration against ammonium acetate

5 buffer and lyophilized to produce white powder of PEG7-hexyl-insulin, B29 monoconjugate (purity>97%).

Currently, existing prior art teaches use of pure insulin powder or crystals as the starting material for making conjugated insulin wherein the insulin used is a biologically active form.

10 The instant invention facilitates the conjugation of insulin in its inactive ester form with an oligomer wherein the insulin ester is deblocked and conjugated to the oligomer simultaneously as a one pot reaction.

The instant invention is a more simplified and economical in the making of an insulin conjugate wherein several steps of purification to obtain pure insulin in biologically active form are circumvented. The starting material is the fermented broth containing insulin precursor. The broth containing the insulin precursor is subjected to a combination step of Cation exchange purification, crystallization with phenol and $ZnCl_2$,
 20 lyophilization, and transpeptidation to obtain insulin ester. The insulin-ester is subjected to conjugation with an oligomer having the general formula $-OC-(CH_2)_n-(OCH_2CH_2)_n-OCH_3$ and more preferably an activated oligomer of molecular formula $C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$ (CAS.no.622405-78-1), to obtain conjugated insulin. The most preferred insulin-oligomer conjugate
 25 is insulin- $OC-CH_2-CH_2-(OCH_2CH_2)_3-OCH_3$ herein after also referred to as IN 105. The overall cost of production of conjugated insulin as a result of this process is minimized.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The instant invention relates to a process for making an insulin-oligomer conjugate in a one-pot reaction by conjugation of insulin-ester
 30 with an activated oligomer wherein simultaneous deblocking and conjugation is done in borate buffer. The activated oligomer solubilized

5 in acetonitrile is added to a solution containing insulin-ester and the pH of the mixture is raised to about 11.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The instant invention discloses a one-pot reaction process for the preparation of insulin-oligomer conjugates comprising simultaneous
10 deblocking and conjugation of an insulin-ester.

The insulin-oligomer conjugate is further purified and lyophilized to a dry powder.

The process for making a insulin-oligomer conjugate in one pot comprising:

- 15 (i) transpeptidation of insulin precursor,
- (ii) deblocking of insulin ester and conjugation with an oligomer simultaneously in one pot,
- (iii) affording insulin-oligomer conjugate.

The process further comprising:

- 20 (i) purification of insulin precursor by chromatography and precipitation,
- (ii) transpeptidation to afford an insulin ester,
- (iii) purification of the insulin ester using RP-HPLC,
- (iv) treatment of the insulin ester with an oligomer in borate
25 buffer, to effect deblocking and conjugation simultaneously,
- (v) optional purification of the conjugate,
- (vi) affording insulin-oligomer conjugate.

The process wherein the preparation of insulin-oligomer conjugates comprises one-pot process of deblocking of insulin-ester and
30 conjugation with the oligomer.

The process of making an insulin-oligomer conjugate comprising of simultaneous addition an oligomer solubilized in acetonitrile to a

5 solution containing insulin-ester in borate buffer and increasing the pH of the mixture.

The process wherein the pH is increased to about 11.

The process wherein the insulin precursor is proinsulin or mini-proinsulin.

10 The process wherein the oligomer is an alkyl-PEG or derivative thereof.

The process wherein the oligomer is activated before conjugation.

The process wherein the activated oligomer used for conjugation is $C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$.

15 The process wherein the alkyl-PEG has the general formula $-OC-(CH_2)_n-(OCH_2CH_2)_n-OCH_3$

The process wherein the insulin-oligomer conjugate is insulin B29 N_8 -oligomer conjugate.

20 The process wherein the insulin-alkyl PEG conjugate is insulin B29 N_8 -alkyl PEG conjugate.

The process wherein the conjugate is insulin $-OC-CH_2-CH_2-(OCH_2CH_2)_3-OCH_3$.

Fermentation of recombinant yeast containing the insulin gene.

25 Inoculum of recombinant yeast containing the insulin gene is prepared by adding 100 micro litre glycerol stock culture into 50 ml of minimal glycerol (MGY) medium in 250 ml shake flasks. MGY medium contains yeast nitrogen base (YNB), glycerol, phosphate buffer and D-biotin. Seed flasks are incubated at 30 deg C, 240+/-10 until 15+/-5 OD (optical density at 600 nm) is reached.

30 Fermentation media contains ortho-phosphoric acid, calcium sulfate di-hydrated, potassium sulfate, magnesium sulfate hepta hydrated, potassium hydroxide, glycerol, trace salts and D-biotin. Fermentor is prepared by adding all the above components except trace

- 5 salts and D-biotin and autoclaved at 121 - 124° C for one hour. Trace salts solution is prepared by filter sterilizing solution of Cupric sulfate penta hydrated, Sodium iodide, Manganese sulfate mono hydrated, Sodium molybdate di hydrated, Boric acid, Cobalt chloride hexa hydrated, Zinc chloride, Ferrous sulfate hepta hydrated. Biotin solution is
10 also filter sterilized. Fermentor is inoculated and run at temperature 30°C, pH 5.5, air flow 0.5 lpm and DO 30. After batch phase, glycerol feed (50 % w/w with water) is started to build the biomass. 50% glycerol w/w is prepared and autoclaved for 30 min at 121-124 deg C and then Trace salts & Biotin solutions are added at the rate of 12 ml/l.
15 Glycerol feed rate is gradually increased up to 20+/- 5 g/hr. Once the 300 – 400 g/l biomass is achieved, temperature is reduced to 20 – 25°C, pH is changed to 3.5 - 6.5 and methanol feed is started. Methanol is filter sterilized and trace salt and biotin solutions are added at the rate of 12 g/l. Methanol feed is increased based on consumption up to 25 +/-
20 5 g/h. During Methanol feeding yeast extract and peptone feed is added at the rate of 0.2 – 0.5 g/h. Fermentation is continued up to 12 days.

Purification of proinsulin from broth

- 900 mg of broth containing Insulin Precursor was adjusted to pH 4.0 by acetic acid and passed through the Cation exchange resins, pre
25 equilibrated with the 50mM acetic acid. The column was washed with 50mM acetic acid and eluted with 50mM acetic acid with 1 M NaCl. 855 mg of product was obtained which was diluted 1:3 with water and concentration was made to 6mg/ml. Phenol was added (1.25mg/lit) and 5% (v/v) ZnCl₂ of 5% (w/v) stock was added to the solution. pH of the
30 solution was adjusted to 5.2 with 1N NaOH. The solution was kept overnight at 4°C. The solid suspension was centrifuged and the pellet formed was lyophilized to dryness. Recovery in the step was 90%.

5 **Transpeptidation and esterification of the proinsulin**

400 mg of dry precursor powder was solubilized in 30ml of DMF containing 30-70% N-N Dimethyl formamide. 724mg of Threonine butyl ester was added to the solution. pH of the solution was adjusted to 6.5 with 3 N Acetic acid. The reaction was started with addition of 55mg of
10 Trypsin. The reaction was monitored in each hour and was stopped with 5ml of 3 N acetic acid after 4 hr when the conversion of Insulin precursor to Insulin ester was 74%. Yield of this step was 68% in terms of product conversion.

The product obtained was precipitated as above, at pH 6.0 and
15 228 mg of Insulin ester was recovered. The crystal pellet of Insulin ester was solubilized in 250 mM acetic acid. The filtered material was passed through C8 Kromasil matrix and the 95% pure Insulin ester was recovered from the acetonitrile gradient. At the end of RPHPLC 149 mg of product was recovered.

20 The insulin ester so obtained is used for the preparation of the insulin conjugate as disclosed in the following examples; not to be considered as limiting.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

25 5 ml of the RP elution pool obtained as of example 2 is taken and 1.2 ml of 1 M Borate buffer added to the reaction mixture; pH of the reaction mixtures were raised to 11 and the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 hr at 24°C. Deblocking was monitored and when it was completed, 0.5 mg of the activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) solubilized in 300 μ l of
30 Acetonitrile was added to the reaction mixture. The reaction was stopped by bringing down the pH of the reaction to 7.5. The yield is 44%, with a chromatogram purity of 28%. Most of the product remains unconverted.

5

Example 2

5 ml of RP elution pool is taken as the starting material taken and 1.2ml of 1 M Borate buffer added to the reaction mixture; pH of the reaction mixtures were raised to 11 and the reaction mixture was stirred for 3hr at 24°C. Deblocking was monitored and when it was completed, 2.5 mg of the activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) solubilized in 300 μ l of Acetonitrile and added to the reaction mixture. The reaction was stopped by bringing down the pH of the reaction to 7.5. The yield 63% with a chromatographic product purity of 56%.

15 **Example 3**

5ml of RP elution pool is taken as the starting material taken and 1.2 ml of 1 M Borate buffer added to the reaction mixture; pH of the reaction mixtures were raised to 11 and the reaction mixture was stirred for 3hr at 24°C. Deblocking was monitored and when it was completed, 10 mg of the activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) solubilized in 300 μ l of Acetonitrile. The sample was analyzed from all the sets at 10 mins and 1hr. The yield is 18% with a chromatographic product purity of 11%. Mostly the diconjugated product was observed.

Example 4

25 5ml of RP elution pool is taken as the starting material taken and 1.2 ml of 1 M Borate buffer added to the reaction mixture; pH adjusted to 10.5 and kept for 5hrs. 2.5 mg activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) dissolve in 300 μ l of acetonitrile and added once the DEBLOCKING was completed. Aliquot was taken and analyzed. The yield was 58% with a chromatographic purity of 51%.

Example 5

5ml of RP elution pool is taken as the starting material taken and 1.2 ml of 1 M Borate buffer added to the reaction mixture; pH adjusted

- 5 to 10.75 and kept for 4hrs. 2.5mg activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) dissolve in 300 μ l of acetonitrile and added once the DEBLOCKING was completed. Aliquot was taken and analyzed. The yield was 61% with a chromatographic purity of 53%.

Example 6 (Simultaneous deblocking and conjugation)

- 10 5 ml of RP elution pool is taken as the starting material taken and 1.2 ml of 1 M Borate buffer added to the reaction mixture; pH adjusted to 11 and 4 mg activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) dissolved in 300 μ l of acetonitrile was added. The sample was analyzed at 10 mins, 1hr, 2hrs, 3 hr after simultaneous deblocking with conjugation takes place.
- 15 The yield 64% with a chromatographic purity of 58%

Example 7 (Simultaneous deblocking and conjugation)

- 5 ml of RP elution pool is taken as the starting material taken and 1.2 ml of 1 M Borate buffer added to the reaction mixture; pH adjusted to 11 and 2.5 mg activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) dissolved in
- 20 300 μ l of acetonitrile was added. The sample was analyzed at 10 mins, 1 hr, 2 hr, 3 hr after simultaneous deblocking with conjugation takes place. The yield after 3 hr was 75% with a product purity of 73.4%.

- Deblocking continued for 1 hr, 2 hr and 3 hr and Conjugation started in each time point and allowed to continue till both deblocking
- 25 and conjugation was over for each case.

- 5 ml each of RP elution pool was taken in each of 4 tubes. 1.2 ml of 1M Borate buffer added to the reaction mixture. pH was adjusted to 11. In the 1st Tube 2.5 mg of activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) was added at 0 hr. deblocking was allowed to continue for 1 hr in the 2nd tube and
- 30 same amount of activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) was added to the reaction mixture. Deblocking was allowed to continue for 2 hr in the 3rd tube and 2.5 mg of activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) was added after 2 hr. In the 4th tube deblocking was continued for 3 hr before same

5 amount of activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) was added. The conjugation was allowed to continue for each tube until it seems to be completed as confirmed by the analytical chromatogram. Yield of the step as well as percentage purity of the insulin conjugate was monitored by analytical chromatograms.

10	Experiment #	Yield (%)	Purity of the IN 105 (%)
	Tube 1	74.7	73.0
	Tube 2	71.0	70.1
	Tube 3	67.6	65.7
15	Tube 4	64.8	59.0

Example 8

150 ml of RPHPLC elution pool in 36 ml of Borate buffer was taken at pH 8.7. The pH was raised to 11 by adding 10 ml of 10 N NaOH and the reaction mixture was kept at 25 °C for 3 hrs. 135 mg of activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) solubilized in 9ml of Acetonitrile was added to the reaction mixture to start the Conjugation reaction. After 1hr, the conjugation reaction was stopped by bringing down the pH of the reaction mixture to 7.5 by adding glacial acetic acid. Yield of deblocking and conjugation was found to be 61% in this reaction and the purity of the product was 62%

Example 9

975 ml of the RP elution pool having concentration of 8.4 mg/ml is taken and 234 ml of 1 M Borate buffer added at pH 8.2. The pH is adjusted to 11 with 10 N NaOH. 975 mg of activated oligomer ($C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$) dissolved in 58.5 ml of acetonitrile was added to the reaction mixture and the deblocking as well as conjugation processes were initiated together.

5 Aliquot was taken at 2 and 3 hr, analyzed in the HPLC to monitor the reaction profile. The conjugation was stopped after 3 hr by bringing down the pH of the reaction mixture to pH 7.5 by addition of glacial acetic acid. Yield was found to be of 68% with a product purity of 69%.

Example 10 (Product Recovery)

10 The end conjugated product is diluted with 250mM acetic acid to make the concentration of 2.5 mg/ml. The material is loaded on Kromasil C8 RP HPLC column and eluted with acetonitrile gradient. The eluted pool has the IN 105 with a purity of 96.7% and with the recovery in the step of 72%.

15 The purified IN 105, eluted from the RPHPLC column is crystallized with Phenol and ZnCl_2 at pH 5.2 at cold condition. The final crystallized pellet was collected by centrifugation. The collected crystal pellet was lyophilized and collected as dry IN 105 purified crystals.

5 **CLAIMS:**

1. A process for making a insulin-oligomer conjugate in one pot comprising of -
 - (i) transpeptidation of insulin precursor,
 - (ii) deblocking of insulin ester and conjugation with an oligomer simultaneously in one pot,
 - (iii) affording insulin-oligomer conjugate.
2. A process of claim 1, further comprising,
 - (i) purification of insulin precursor by chromatography and precipitation,
 - (ii) transpeptidation to afford an insulin ester,
 - (iii) purification of the insulin ester using RP-HPLC,
 - (iv) treatment of the insulin ester with an oligomer in borate buffer, to effect deblocking and conjugation simultaneously,
 - (v) optional purification of the conjugate,
 - (vi) affording insulin-oligomer conjugate.
3. A process of claim 1, wherein the preparation of insulin-oligomer conjugates comprises one-pot process of deblocking of insulin-ester and conjugation with the oligomer.
4. A process of claim 1 for making an insulin-oligomer conjugate comprising of simultaneous addition an oligomer solubilized in acetonitrile to a solution containing insulin-ester in borate buffer and increasing the pH of the mixture.
5. A process of claim 4, wherein the pH is increased to about 11.
6. A process in claim 1, wherein the insulin precursor is proinsulin or mini-proinsulin.
7. A process in claim 1, wherein the oligomer is an alkyl-PEG or derivative thereof.

- 5 8. A process in claim 1, wherein the oligomer is activated before conjugation.
9. A process in claim 8, wherein the activated oligomer used for conjugation is $C_{14}H_{23}NO_8$.
- 10 10. A process in claim 7, wherein the alkyl-PEG has the general formula - $OC-(CH_2)_n-(OCH_2CH_2)_n-OCH_3$
11. A process in claim 1, wherein the insulin-oligomer conjugate is insulin B29 N_ϵ -oligomer conjugate.
12. A process of claim 1, wherein the insulin-alkyl PEG conjugate is insulin B29 N_ϵ -alkyl PEG conjugate.
- 15 13. A process of claim 1, wherein the conjugate is insulin B29 N_ϵ - $OC-CH_2-CH_2-(OCH_2CH_2)_3-OCH_3$.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IN2005/000234

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int. Cl. ⁷ : C07K 14/62 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) STN: MEDLINE, WPIDS, CA - keyword search (insulin, proinsulin, conjugate, oligomer, PEG, polyethylene glycol)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6828297 B2 (EKWURIBE N N et al) 7 December 2004 See whole document especially Example 41	1-13
X	US 6309633 B1 (EKWURIBE N N et al) 30 October 2001 See whole document especially column 26	1-13
X	US 5359030 (EKWURIBE N N et al) 25 October 1994 See whole document especially Examples I, II, VII	1-13
X	US 4179337 (DAVIS F F et al) 18 December 1979 See whole document especially Examples X - XVI	1-13
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 November 2005	Date of mailing of the international search report 25 NOV 2005	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized officer O.L. CHAI Telephone No : (02) 6283 2482	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/IN2005/000234

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
US	6828297	BR	0106851	CA	2449426	CN	1538809
		EP	1404178	JP	2003113113	MX	PA03011284
		US	2003027748	US	2004198949	WO	2002/098232
US	6309633	AU	57500/00	BR	0011772	CA	2377517
		CN	1368877	CZ	20014597	EP	1196157
		HU	0203745	MX	PA02000054	NO	20016143
		NZ	516109	PL	352995	US	2004223948
		WO	2000/078302	ZA	200110099		
US	5359030	AT	62199	AU	66409/96	AU	69466/94
		CA	2162366	CA	2227891	CN	1192690
		EP	0707596	EP	0841936	EP	1171328
		EP	1264837	IL	109619	JP	2003160598
		JP	2003206236	US	5438040	US	5681811
		US	6191105	US	6682091	US	2003229006
		US	2003229010	US	2005181976	WO	2000/061403
		WO	1994/026778	WO	1997/004796		
US	4179337	CA	1033673	CH	616942	DE	2433883
		FR	2313939	GB	1469472	JP	50042087
		NL	7409770	SE	7409366		
Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.							
END OF ANNEX							